



**NOAA, NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE, WEATHER FORECAST OFFICE**

**Miami, Florida 33165**

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**February 11 to 15 is  
Florida Severe Weather  
Awareness Week**



**February 8, 2013:** The week of February 11 to 15 has been designated as Florida Severe Weather Awareness Week. In conjunction with Florida's Division of Emergency Management and the American Red Cross, the National Weather Service will issue Public Information Statements each day next week focusing on a specific weather hazard.

On **Monday, February 11**, the hazard will be lightning.



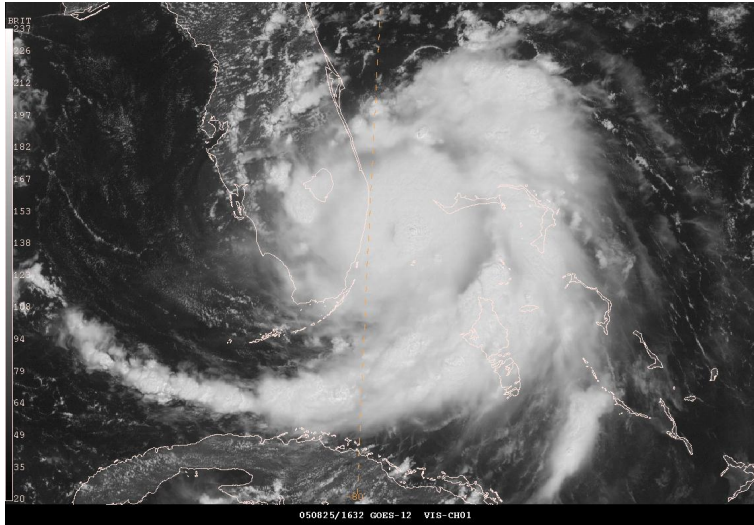
On **Tuesday, February 12**, marine hazards and rip currents will be discussed.



**Wednesday, February 13** will cover tornadoes and thunderstorms, and will feature a statewide tornado drill at 1010 am.



**Thursday, February 14** will highlight hurricanes and flooding.



**Friday, February 15** will end the week with heat, cold and wildfire threats being discussed.



South Floridians experienced several significant weather events in 2012, highlighted by impacts from three tropical cyclones (Debby, Isaac and Sandy) in the form of flooding, strong winds and tornadoes. Heavy summer rains contributed to localized flooding, large hail and strong winds.

Although south Florida was once again spared the direct effects of a hurricane, the brushes with Debby, Isaac and Sandy illustrate that it doesn't take a direct strike from a "big one" to cause impacts. Debby, Isaac and Sandy caused severe flooding on both coasts resulting in millions of dollars in damage. Tropical Storm Debby also triggered the largest south Florida tornado outbreak since 1964.

Rip currents and lightning deaths and injuries were also noted in 2012. Rip currents claimed three lives and many more rescues and lightning resulted in one death on Lake Okeechobee along with several close calls across south Florida. Rough surf led to the capsizing of a dive boat off Broward County on Thanksgiving Day, killing one person and injuring three others.

Monitor the National Weather Service Miami/South Florida office website at <http://weather.gov/southflorida> and local media each day next week to see the articles corresponding to the featured weather hazard of the day.